

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 697 793 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
18.12.1996 Bulletin 1996/51

(51) Int Cl.⁶: H04N 7/15, H04N 7/173

(43) Date of publication A2:
21.02.1996 Bulletin 1996/08

(21) Application number: 95305420.2

(22) Date of filing: 02.08.1995

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB

(72) Inventor: Wellner, Pierre David
Middletown, New Jersey 07748 (US)

(30) Priority: 15.08.1994 US 290663

(74) Representative: Johnston, Kenneth Graham et al
Lucent Technologies (UK) Ltd,
5 Morningside Road
Woodford Green Essex, IG8 OTU (GB)

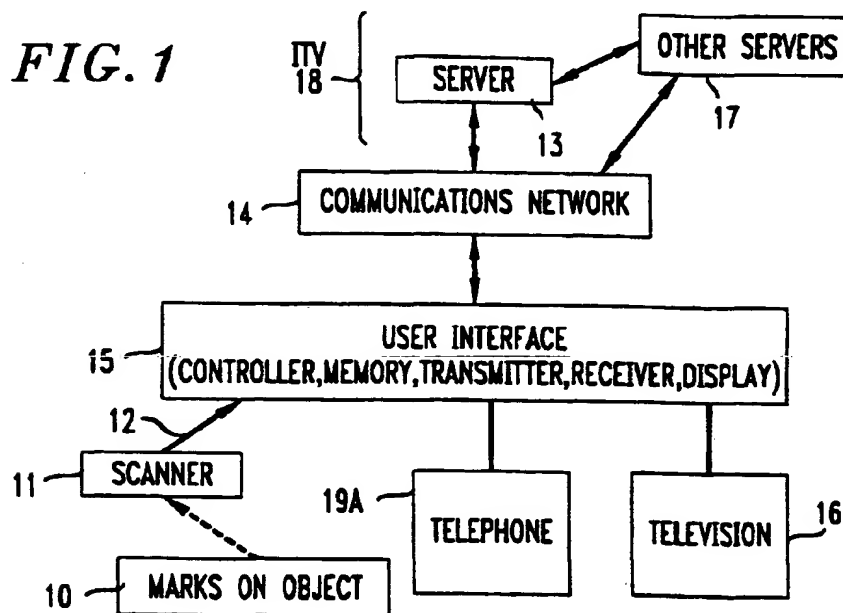
(71) Applicant: AT&T Corp.
New York, NY 10013-2412 (US)

(54) Multimedia service access apparatus and method

(57) The disclosed apparatus and method enables a user to control the selection of electronic multimedia services to be provided to the user by one or more servers over a communication medium. The apparatus includes a scanner means for reading marks on an object and for communicating a request signal, having an object code representing the read marks, to a user interface. The interface receives the request signal and

transmits to the servers a request command including an interface identification code and the object code which is used to select the desired electronic multimedia service. The servers identify the selected electronic multimedia service using the object code. The interface then enables the selected electronic multimedia service transmitted from the servers to be received by the user's receiver.

FIG. 1



EP 0 697 793 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 5420

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Y	GB-A-2 230 130 (VIDEO ANSWERS LIMITED) 10 October 1990	1,8-11	H04N7/15
A	* page 1, line 1 - page 11, line 27 *	2-7	H04N7/173
Y	US-A-5 003 384 (DURDEN GREGORY S ET AL) 26 March 1991	1,8-11	
A	* column 2, line 8 - column 4, line 15 *	3	
A	EP-A-0 529 864 (SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC) 3 March 1993	1,8-11	
	* page 4, line 47 - page 5, line 51 *		
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 114 (P-1015), 2 March 1990 & JP-A-01 311364 (SANYO ELECTRIC CO LTD), 15 December 1989, * abstract *	1-11	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 001 (C-0899), 7 January 1992 & JP-A-03 228736 (SHIMADZU CORP), 9 October 1991, * abstract *	1-11	
A	WO-A-94 01964 (BELL ATLANTIC NETWORK SERVICES) 20 January 1994 * the whole document *	1-11	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04N
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN		14 October 1996	Greve, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p>			
<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP 0 FORM 1503 (03.92) (PUB/COI)